

Joy Brewer

From: Sylvia Rhodea <sylviarhodea@me.com>
Sent: Friday, May 26, 2017 3:24 PM
To: Joy Brewer
Subject: Support for HB4425 and HB4426

Dear Legislators,

I am writing in support of H4425 and HB4426. I'm very concerned with the government overreach of the health department in creating administrative rules of such significance rather than passing law. The administration rules promulgated by the health department in 2015 are in direct contradiction to the previous law on the books in regards to requirements for vaccine exemption.

The health department has already been confused in regards to their own administrative rules and just this week, after multiple phone calls, I received a call from our county supervisor to apologize for incorrectly applying their own administrative rules. My county had decided to add the requirement to the rule of requiring an additional waiver whenever a child changed school buildings, and letters have been sent out to families in my county in regards to the need for that for the upcoming school year. Government unchecked has a tendency to grow its powers and that appears to be happening in regards to the health department.

In addition, I am very concerned with the health department discriminating against unvaccinated children in regards to excluding them from school upon a minor outbreak such as one case of chickenpox. Based on the testimony given yesterday by the head of the AAP of Michigan and at least one other physician, both whom were testifying on behalf of the health department, it is clear that both vaccinated and unvaccinated children are at risk of contracting diseases for which we vaccinate. Numerous outbreaks are initiated by vaccinated children, and some occur involving only vaccinated children. Sending unvaccinated children home from school without sending everybody home from school is discriminatory. Every child is at risk of getting the disease and spreading it. There should be no distinction or discrimination against any child. This is government overreach by the health department. If this rule stands without legislative intervention, we will hold our legislators accountable for the continued discrimination against children who have a constitutional right to an education.

Finally, many of the children who are considered to be unvaccinated/in need of a waiver, are children or siblings of children who have been fully vaccinated until they suffered a significant vaccine injury. They have already "taken one for the team", and now we are adding insult to injury by excluding them from school. They pose no greater risk than any other child, and they can not be further vaccinated without serious risk of harm. The health department is being punitive and discriminatory in it's nearsighted desire to increase Michigan vaccine rates. It is one thing to increase inconvenience and road blocks to waivers for parents, but quite another to be punitive to children.

Thank you for your serious and needed consideration of these laws.

Sincerely,

Sylvia Rhodea